

## Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 187445 TOSEC 080228

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, MORNING AUGUST 9

NO. 24

NEWSPAPERS

NY TIMES -- BERNARD GWERTZMAN FROM TAIF (P-1)

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE SAID TODAY THAT SAUDI ARABIAN OFFICIALS HAD ADVISED HIM TO EXPECT AN IMMINENT CHANGE IN THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION'S ATTITUDE TOWARD A KEY UN RESOLUTION THAT RECOGNIZES ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST AND HAS BEEN OPPOSED BY THE PLO FOR A DECADE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SPOKESMAN FOR PLO DENIED THERE HAD BEEN ANY FUNDAMENTAL UNCLASSIFIED

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SHIFT IN ITS STAND ON RES 242, AND SAID UNLESS IT WAS REWRITTEN TO TAKE NOTE OF RIGHTS OF PLO, ORGANIZATION WOULD NOT ACCEPT IT.

-- VANCE SPOKESMAN HAD SAID IF PLO ACCEPTED 242 WITHOUT CHANGES THIS WOULD MEET AMERICAN CRITERIA FOR ENDING BOYCOTT OF THE ORGANIZATION.

-- "CLEARLY THE AMERICANS WERE URGING THAT THE PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION, IF IT SHIFTED ITS POSITION ON RES 242, SHOULD

ACCEPT THE WORDING WITHOUT AMENDMENTS. HOWEVER, THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE WAS STANDING FIRM AGAINST SUCH A MOVE."

-- WHILE INITIAL PLO RESPONSE DID NOT SEEM FAVORABLE, THERE WAS CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONFUSION. CARTER SAID IN PLAINS PLO ACCEPTANCE OF 242 WOULD OPEN UP NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE WITH US.

-- EVEN IF PLO ACCEPTED 242, IT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE WELCOME AT GENEVA. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT MIGHT TOUCH OFF MAJOR DISPUTE BETWEEN US AND ISRAEL, WITH BEGIN REFUSING TO ALLOW PLO REPRESENTATION.

-- CURRENT EXCHANGE SET OFF BY REPORTS US MIGHT CONSIDER GOING ALONG WITH PROPOSED PLO MODIFICATIONS OF RES 242.

-- BACKGROUND ON RES 242 AND 338.

WASH POST -- DON OBERDORFER FROM TAIF (P-1 LEAD STORY)

LEAD: "ARAB LEADERS HAVE TOLD THE US THAT THE PLO MAY CHANGE ITS POSITION ON ISRAEL, AND TOP OFFICIALS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION YESTERDAY SENT OUT PUBLIC SIGNALS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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ENCOURAGEMENT."

OTHER POINTS:

-- UNCLEAR WHETHER CURRENT PLO SHIFT WOULD MEET US REQUIREMENTS; VANCE SPOKESMAN SAID PLO ACCEPTANCE OF RES 242 WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO BRING ABOUT US-PLO TALKS.

-- VANCE TOLD BY SAUD THAT PLO HAS CHANGE IN POSITION COMING, SPOKESMAN CARTER SAID. OTHER SOURCES SAID SIMILAR REPORTS HAD COME THROUGH EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN. US HAD ASKED THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

-- PLO SPOKESMAN DENIED OUTRIGHT ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL PLANNED; BEGIN REFUSED COMMENT.

-- PRES CARTER SAID EXTENT OF PLO SHIFT UNCLEAR, ADDED THEY COULD ACCEPT RES 242 AND MAKE STATEMENT OF RESERVATION SAYING PALESTINIANS SHOULD HAVE OTHER THAN REFUGEE STATUS AND THAT WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO US. STATE DEPT OFFICIALS SAID US WOULD NOT AGREE TO ALTER WORDING OF RES.

-- PLO ACCEPTANCE OF 242 COULD ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED OVER OBJECTIONS OF REJECTIONISTS, AND WOULD PROBABLY LEAD TO SPLIT. PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL TO MEET AUG 16 IN DAMASCUS. SPECULATION THAT POSSIBLE CHANGE WOULD BE DISCUSSED

THERE.

-- PLO ACCEPTANCE OF 242 NOW COULD STRAIN US-ISRAEL RELATIONS AND INTRODUCE NEW ELEMENT OF UNCERTAINTY INTO GENEVA PLANS.

CSM -- DAN SOUTHERLAND FROM TAIF (P-1 LEAD STORY)

LEAD: "SIGNALS ARE FLASHING BETWEEN THE US AND THE PLO  
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WHICH COULD THEORETICALLY LEAD TO DIRECT US-PLO TALKS AND PLO PARTICIPATION IN A MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- CARTER ON AUG 8 DISCLOSED APPARENT CHANGE IN US ATTITUDE ON PLO. OFFICIALS WITH VANCE SAID PLO IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE CHANGE IN POSITION ON 242.

-- ANALYSTS SAID US AND PLO WERE MOVING CLOSER, BUT PREDICTED NEITHER WOULD MOVE FAR ENOUGH AT PRESENT TO SATISFY OTHER.

-- PRES CARTER SAID PLO ACCEPTANCE OF 242 WOULD OPEN DOOR FOR TALKS WITH US; SPOKESMAN CARTER SAID SAME THING, ADDED THAT SAUD TOLD VANCE PLO WOULD SOON ANNOUNCE CHANGE IN ITS POSITION.

-- PRES ALSO SAID PLO COULD SATISFY US BY ACCEPTING 242 AND STATING ITS RESERVATIONS, BUT SOME OBSERVERS DOUBTED PLO WOULD GO THAT FAR.

-- SOME EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS SUGGESTED MODIFYING 242 TO MEET PLO OBJECTIONS, SAID FRANCE TRYING TO GET EC TO AGREE TO THAT. PRES CARTER INDICATED HE WOULD PREFER NOT TO CHANGE RES.

-- PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETS AUG 16, BUT RECENT PLO STATEMENTS HAVE SHOWN LITTLE DESIRE FOR COMPROMISE.

LA TIMES -- OZZIE JOHNSTON FROM TAIF

LEAD: "US OFFICIALS HINTED MONDAY THAT A BREKTHROUGH MAY  
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BE NEAR IN THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN DEADLOCK BARRING THE WAY TO A MIDEAST PEACE CONFERENCE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- OFFICIALS WITH VANCE SAID SAUD HAD ADVISED SEC OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN PLO POLICY. TWO PLO SPOKESMEN ALSO SAID ORGANIZATION WOULD CONSIDER ACCEPTING RES 242 IF IT WERE AMENDED TO CALL FOR PALESTINIAN HOMELAND.

-- ACCEPTANCE OF 242 WOULD CONSTITUTE POLITICAL RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. VANCE SPOKESMAN SAID SUCH ACCEPTANCE WOULD ACCOMPLISH SAME THING AS AMENDING COVENANT.

-- ISRAELI GOVT REFUSED TO COMMENT. OFFICIALS SAID RUMORED BREAKTHROUGH MAY BE "TRICK".

-- CARTER SAID US WOULD BE SATISFIED IF PLO ACCEPTED 242 BUT MADE STATEMENT ON PALESTINIAN STATUS.

-- OFFICIALS IN VANCE PARTY NOT JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS; PLO NEVER SPEAKS WITH A SINGLE VOICE, AND NO CONCESSION ON 242 WAS ON AGENDA OF PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN DAMASCUS LAST WEEK.

BALT SUN -- HANK TREWHITT FROM TAIF (P-1)

LEAD: "CARTER ADMINISTRATION YESTERDAY WELCOMED REPORTS THAT THE PLO MAY ACCEPT ISRAEL AS A STATE AND PROMISED THE PLO A VOICE IN MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS WHEN IT DOES."

OTHER POINTS:

-- POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANT BREAK IN MIDEAST IMPASSE LEFT EVERYONE WAITING TENSELY FOR WORD FROM PLO, WHICH SOON DENIED IT WAS CHANGING ITS POLICY ON ISRAEL. UNCLER AT UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT POINT "WHETHER PRES CARTER HAD BEEN VICTIMIZED BY MIDEAST GAMESMANSHIP OR WHETHER PLO WAS SIMPLY MOVING CAUTIOUSLY."

-- AT INFORMAL PLAINS PRESS CONFERENCE, CARTER HAD SAID PALESTINIAN LEADERS HAD INDICATED INDIRECTLY THEY MIGHT ACCEPT 242. THAT ACTION WOULD OPEN DOOR FOR US-PALESTINIAN TALKS, AND MIGHT LEAD TO THEIR PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA. UNCERTAINTY ON THAT SCORE; ISRAEL HOLDS VETO OVER NEW GENEVA PARTIES.

-- THROUGHOUT, CARTER REFERRED TO PALESTINIANS, NOT PLO, BUT VANCE LEFT NO DOUBT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT PLO.

-- SPOKESMAN FOR VANCE SAID SAUD TOLD HIM SUNDAY NIGHT PLO HAD CHANGE IN POSITION COMING; RUMORS OF CHANGE HAD BEEN CIRCULATING IN MIDEAST.

-- VANCE WARNED US WOULD NOT AGREE TO REWORD 242, WHICH WOULD VIOLATE KISSINGER'S ASSURANCES TO ISRAELIS, AND WHICH WOULD OPEN UP QUESTION TO DEBATE IN UNSC.

-- ISRAELIS LIKELY TO REMIND VANCE HE SAID IN FEB THAT PLO HAD TO ACCEPT 242 AND CHANGE COVENANT BEFORE US WOULD TALK WITH IT. "IT NOW SEEMS CLEAR MR. VANCE SIMPLY ERRED BY USING THAT LANGUAGE."

-- CARTER SUGGESTED WAY OUT FOR PLO: ACCEPTANCE OF 242 WITH STATEMENT GIVING THEIR VIEW OF PALESTINIAN SITUATION.

WSJ -- BOB KEATLEY FROM TAIF

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LEAD: "THE US TRIED TO MOVE CLOSER TO DIRECT DEALINGS WITH THE PLO, WHICH WAS ONCE CONSIDERED ONLY A TERRORIST GROUP. IN DOING SO, IT MOVED CLOSER TO A BLUNT SHOWDOWN WITH ISRAEL OVER MIDEAST PEACE TERMS."

OTHER POINTS:

-- US THINKS IT HAS REACHED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH PLO ON PLAN FOR US OFFICIALS AND PLO TO OPEN TALKS. UNDER PLAN, PLO REPORTEDLY WILL ACCEPT CERTAIN KEY UN RESOLUTIONS; US WILL INTERPRET THIS AS ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL AND WILL BEGIN TALKS WITH PLO.

-- EFFORT COULD FAIL BECAUSE OF PLO INTERNAL DIVISIONS.

-- PLO DEVELOPMENT SURFACED IN PLAINS, WHERE CARTER SAID HE HAD INDICATIONS PLO MIGHT ACCEPT 242, WHICH WOULD OPEN OPPORTUNITY FOR TALKS WITH US. CARTER ALSO SAID US WOULD ACCEPT PALESTINIAN STATEMENT THAT PALESTINIAN STATUS SHOULD BE MORE THAN SIMPLY AS REFUGEES.

-- US OFFICIAL SAID PLO HAS NOT YET MOVED; PRECISE US RESPONSE WILL DEPEND ON PRECISELY WHAT IT DOES. VOTE BY NATIONAL COUNCIL WOULD CARRY MORE WEIGHT THAN SIMPLE STATEMENT BY ARAFAT.

-- PLO DEVELOPMENT IS ANOTHER SIGN OF INCREASING US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.

WIRE SERVICES

AP -- BARRY SCHWEID FROM JERUSALEM

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE, CARRYING WORD OF POSSIBLE PALESTINIAN CONCESSIONS, ARRIVED IN ISRAEL TODAY FOR WHAT

COULD BE THE CLIMAX OF HIS CURRENT MIDEAST PEACE MISSION."  
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OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE TO BE CLOSELY QUESTIONED BY BEGIN ON WHETHER US  
REMAINS COMMITTED NOT TO DEAL WITH PLO.

-- AT NEWS CONFERENCE IN TAIF, VANCE CONFIRMED HE HAS HAD  
INDIRECT CONTACTS WITH PLO. SAID HE HAD HEARD RUMORS PLO  
MAY CONSIDER CHANGING POSITION ON 242, BUT HAD SEEN  
NOTHING CONCRETE YET.

-- IF PLO ADOPTED 242, US WOULD NOT INSIST COVENANT BE  
REVISED, VANCE SAID.

-- IN ISRAEL, HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL SAID ACCEPTANCE OF  
242 WOULD NOT CHANGE ISRAEL'S STAND AGAINST DEALING WITH  
PLO.

-- BACKGROUND ON ISRAELI AND PLO POSITIONS AND ON 242.

UPI -- JIM ANDERSON FROM TEL AVIV

LEAD: "SECSTATE VANCE ARRIVED IN AN UNEASY ISRAEL FROM  
SAUDI ARABIA TODAY AND SERVED NOTICE HE INTENDS TO DIS-  
CUSS SUBSTANTIVE AS WELL AS PROCEDURAL ISSUES WITH THE  
ISRAELIS ABOUT RECONVENING THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE EXPECTED TO SOUND OUT ISRAELI REACTION TO  
INDICATIONS PLO MIGHT BE SHIFTING TO MORE MODERATE  
POSITION.

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-- AT PRESS CONFERENCE BEFORE LEAVING TAIF, SAUD URGED  
VANCE TO BEGIN TALKS WITH PLO SINCE US IS ACTING AS  
"HONEST BROKER" IN MIDEAST AND PLO ISSUE IS AT CORE OF  
SETTLEMENT. "THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN TALK FOR THE PALES-  
TINIANS ARE THE PALESTINIANS."

-- BEGIN GOVERNMENT HAS OPPOSED DISCUSSING SUBSTANTIVE  
ISSUES UNTIL GENEVA IS RECONVENED; VANCE SAID HE HOPED TO  
BE ABLE TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES IN SPIRIT OF COOPERATION  
AND UNDERSTANDING.

-- VANCE ARRIVED AS TENSION AND UNEASINESS GREW IN ISRAEL  
OVER WHAT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS VIEWED AS "DELIBERATELY

ENGINEERED US EFFORT TO GET PLO REPRESENTED AT GENEVA."

-- VANCE SAID US BEARS IN MIND PRINCIPLE THAT ANY SETTLEMENT MUST ASSURE SECURITY OF ISRAEL.

-- HE TREATED CHANGE IN US POSITION AS LEGAL QUESTION; IN FEB HE HAD INSISTED PLO WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE ITS CHARTER AS WELL AS ACCEPT 242. NOW HE SAID ACCEPTANCE OF 242 WOULD IMPLY REVOCATION OF OBJECTIONABLE PORTIONS OF COVENANT.

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-- HE REITERATED THAT US HAS HAD NO DIRECT CONTACTS WITH PLO.

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WITH

REUTERS -- ROY GUTMAN FROM TAIF AND TEL AVIV

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LEAD -- SECSTATE VANCE ARRIVED IN ISRAEL AFTER TALKS ON THE MIDEAST DISPUTE IN FIVE ARAB COUNTRIES, WHICH ENDED WITH A WARM SENDOFF IN SAUDI ARABIA EARLY TODAY.

OTHER POINTS:

-- POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN PLO'S ATTITUDE TO 242 DISCLOSED TO VANCE BY SAUDI FONMIN SAUD AND ALSO INDICATED BY OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, U.S. OFFICIALS SAID.

-- PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS IN BEIRUT STRESSED CHANGE IN PLO POLICY WOULD HAVE TO BE SANCTIONED BY PNC, DUE TO MEET NEXT WEEK.

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-- US DISCLOSURES "FELL SHORT" OF SAYING HOW PALESTINIANS' DEMAND FOR STATE OF THEIR OWN COULD BE MET.

-- FOR PALESTINIANS TO SAY THEY RECOGNIZE 242 BUT INSIST THEY'RE NOT JUST REFUGEES WOULD BE OUT OF CHARACTER FOR PLO AND CLOSEST SUPPORTERS, SUCH AS SYRIA, BECAUSE MAKES NO REFERENCE TO PALESTINIANS' NATIONAL RIGHTS.

-- ISRAELI OFFICIALS LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN VANCE; SOME PRIVATELY DOUBTED POSSIBILITY OF GENEVA MEETING IN 1977.

-- FONMIN SAUD TOLD REPORTERS HE WAS "VERY GLAD" ATTITUDE THAT PALESTINIAN QUESTION WAS THE HEART IS BEING SHARED BY US.

-- NEITHER HE NOR VANCE WOULD CONFIRM DETAILS OF DISCLO-

SURES OF IMMINENT PLO CHANGE OF ATTITUDE.

-- VANCE SAID IT WAS "PREMATURE" TO ANSWER QUESTION OF  
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PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS.

-- SAUD SAID MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR US, IN ARAB EYES,  
WAS TO TAKE UP CONTACT WITH PLO.

-- IT APPEARED LESS THAN LIKELY THAT PLO COULD ATTEND  
TALKS AT GENEVA THIS YEAR.

-- JERUSALEM POST PUBLISHED "SECRET CLAUSES" IN USISRAEL  
MEMO OF AGREEMENT ON 242 AND PALESTINIAN ISSUE, DESIGNED  
TO PERSUADE ISRAEL TO CONSENT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM GIDDI,  
MITLA, AND ABU RUDEIS.

-- QUOTES "THE US WILL OPPOSE, AND IF NECESSARY VOTE  
AGAINST, ANY INITIATIVE IN THE SEC COUNCIL OR TO CHANGE  
242 AND 338 IN WAYS WHICH ARE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THEIR  
ORIGINAL PURPOSE."

RADIO AND TV NETWORKS

1. NBC  
RICHARD VALERIANI--"TODAY".

FLOYD KALBER: CYRUS VANCE, SECSTATE, HAS CONCLUDED TALKS  
IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND MOVES ON TO ISRAEL TODAY. VANCE  
WILL PRESENT TO SKEPTICAL ISRAELI LEADERS PROMISING NEWS  
THAT ONE OF ROADBLOCKS TO MIDDLE EAST PEACE MAY H-  
AVE BEEN BROKEN DOWN. RICHARD VALERIANI HAS EXPLANATION.

VALERIANI: DURING SECRETARY VANCE'S TALKS WITH SAUDI  
OFFICIALS, HE WAS TOLD THAT PLO PLANS TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT  
ABOUT CHANGE IN ITS POSITION ON U.N. RESOLUTION 242.  
BUT HE WAS GIVEN NO WORD WHAT ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD SAY, NOR  
TOLD PRECISELY WHEN IT WOULD COME.

PLO HAS NEVER ACCEPTED 242 BECAUSE THAT RESOLUTION PRO-  
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VIDES FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ARAB STATES  
AND ISRAEL, AND PLO'S OWN CHARTER CALLS FOR DISMANTLING OF  
THE JEWISH STATE. IN VANCE'S VIEW, PLO'S ACCEPTANCE OF  
242 WOULD MEAN RECOGNIZING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST IN  
PEACE. AND COULD CLEAR WAY FOR US TO DEAL DIRECTLY  
WITH PLO. THAT, IN TURN, MIGHT FACILITATE AMERICAN  
EFFORT TO GET ARABS AND ISRAELIS BACK TO CONFERENCE



TABLE IN GENEVA.

VANCE'S NEXT STOP IS ISRAEL, WHERE HE CAN EXPECT SOME

STORMY SESSIONS OVER PALESTINIAN ISSUE IN PARTICULAR,  
AND COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST NEGO-

TIATIONS IN GENERAL. (TAIF, SAUDI ARABIA).

2. ABC

BARRIE DUNSMORE--"GOOD MORNING AMERICA".

STEVE BELL: SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN ISRAEL  
HAS PUBLICLY RESTATED OPPOSITION TO ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH  
PLO. THAT STATEMENT COMING AS SECSTATE VANCE ARRIVES IN  
ISRAEL CARRYING WITH HIM REPORTS FROM ARAB LEADERS THAT  
PLO MIGHT BE WILLING TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE. WE  
HAVE A REPORT FROM ABC'S BARRIE DUNSMORE TRAVELLING WITH  
SECRETARY VANCE.

DUNSMORE: SECRETARY VANCE HAS NOW CONCLUDED TWO DAYS  
OF TALKS WITH SAUDI ROYAL FAMILY DURING WHICH TIME MUCH  
OF CONVERSATION CONCERNED POSSIBLE SHIFT BY PLO IN ITS  
OPPOSITION TO U.N. RESOLUTION 242, RESOLUTION WHICH  
IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZES ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST IN  
PEACE. HOWEVER THAT DEVELOPMENT FINALLY SHAKES DOWN,  
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VANCE HAS REASON TO EXPECT CERTAIN FROSTINESS IN  
RECEPTION ON NEXT STOP, WHICH IS ISRAEL. HIS STATEMENT  
YESTERDAY THAT ACCEPTANCE OF 242 BY PLO WOULD IN  
EFFECT SUPERCEDE PALESTINIAN CHARTER - WHICH CALLS FOR  
ISRAEL'S DESTRUCTION - WILL CERTAINLY NOT HAVE BEEN  
WELL RECEIVED IN ISRAEL.

ADDITIONALLY, VANCE IS CARRYING SPECIFIC AMERICAN  
PROPOSALS FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT WHICH ISRAELIS WOULD  
RATHER NOT HEAR. (TAIF, SAUDI ARABIA).

3. CBS

MARVIN KALB, FIRST LINE REPORT (RADIO).

CRUNCH TIME IN AMERICAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS.

SPOKESMAN FOR PLO DENIED IT QUICKLY: "WE ARE NOT READY TO  
CHANGE OUR STAND ON 242," HE SAID, "AND WE ARE NOT  
READY TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL." SPOKESMAN WAS REFERRING  
TO REPORTS FROM TAIF, MOUNTAIN RESORT IN SAUDI ARABIA, TO  
EFFECT THAT PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL WOULD BE MEETING  
IN DAMASCUS ON AUGUST 16 FOR PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING WITH

MODIFICATIONS U.N. RESOLUTION 242 AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIAT-

ING MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. THAT RESOLUTION EXCHANGES ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORY FOR RIGHT OF EVERY STATE IN AREA TO LIVE IN PEACE WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BOUNDARIES.

DESPITE PLO SPOKESMAN'S DENIAL, STORIES FROM TAIF HAVE AUTHORITATIVE RING. THEY COME FROM HODDING CARTER, SECSTATE VANCE'S SPOKESMAN, AND THEY QUOTE SAUDI ARABIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AS HAVING TOLD SECRETARY THAT PLO WOULD CHANGE POSITION TOWARDS U.N. RESOLUTION 242. THUD

SAUDIS BANKROLL PALESTINIAN OPERATION AND CAUSE.  
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THEIR INFLUENCE, BASED ON OIL WEALTH AND RELIGIOUS CONVICTION, IS ENORMOUS. SOME ARABS EVEN ARGUE THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS NOW BECOME DOMINANT FORCE IN ARAB WORLD SUPERSEDING EVEN EGYPT. PENDULUM HAS SWUNG EAST.

BUT EVEN PRIOR TO REPORTS FROM TAIF, PRESIDENT CARTER, SPEAKING IN PLAINS, GEORGIA, SAID IF PALESTINIANS CHANGED ATTITUDE TOWARDS 242, U.S. WOULD IMMEDIATELY OPEN CONTACT WITH THEM AND SUPPORT THEIR PARTICIPATION AT REVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE. THE PRESIDENT, CONSISTENT WITH HIS POLICY, WAS USING POWER OF PUBLIC OPINION ONE DAY BEFORE VANCE'S ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL TO PUSH PALESTINIANS TOWARDS ACCEPTANCE OF 242 AND ISRAELIS TOWARDS ACCEPTANCE OF PLO.

PRIME MINISTER BEGIN FLATLY AND FULLY REJECTED PLO AS NEGOTIATING PARTNER. "WE CANNOT SIT AT THE TABLE AND NEGOTIATE OUR OWN SELF-EXTERMINATION," HE TOLD HIS PARLIAMENT. "ISRAEL IS ONLY COUNTRY IN WORLD WHERE CHILDREN AT SCHOOL HAVE GUARDS TO PROTECT THEIR LIVES," HE SAID, CONTINUING, "ISRAEL WILL NOT NEGOTIATE WITH THE ORGANIZATION WHICH COMMITTED THESE CRIMES." BEGIN STATEMENTS SUGGEST THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT FOLLOW IN AMERICA'S FOOTSTEPS AND RECOGNIZE PLO AS NEGOTIATING PARTNER IF, IN FACT, PLO ADOPTS U.N. RESOLUTION 242 AS BASIS FOR A MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATION. AND, IF ISRAEL DOES NOT FOLLOW IN AMERICA'S FOOTSTEPS, THEN COLLISION IN AMERICAN-ISRA-

ELI RELATIONS APPEARS INEVITABLE.

ON BASIS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT PUBLIC COMMENTS AND INTERVIEWS, IT IS CLEAR THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THIS, AND HE INTENDS TO PRESS FORWARD WITH HIS POLICY ANYWAY, USING  
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PUBLIC OPINION AND POSSIBLE CUT-OFF OR REDUCTION IN AMER-

ICAN MILITARY ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL AS LEVERS, AS PRESSURE TO CHANGE PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S POLICY. THIS IS CRUNCH WHICH AMERICAN AND ISRAELI DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN TRYING TO AVOID FOR MANY YEARS, BUT WHICH BOTH SIDES KNEW WOULD COME ANYWAY JUST AS SOON AS PLO CHANGED ITS POLICY AND ACCEPTED U.N. RESOLUTION 242.

EVERYTHING ALMOST SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ORCHESTRATED FOR VANCE'S TALKS TODAY AND TOMORROW IN ISRAEL: PLO CHANGE, ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGE BY AMERICAN SPOKESMAN QUOTING A SAUDI ARABIAN FOREIGN MINISTER - USUALLY THAT'S A NO-NO FOR A SPOKESMAN - THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS BOUT PALESTINIANS, FINALLY, VANCE'S ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL. MAXIMUM BUILD-UP, BEGINNING OF MAXIMUM PRESSURE. CRUNCH AT HAND.

(TV -- MORNING NEWS CARRIED ABRIDGED VERSION OF ABOVE REPORT)

CHRISTOPHER

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